

Introduction of the manual for aesthetic design of bridge

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5. Introduction of the Manual for Aesthetic Design of Bridge Published by the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (June, 1982)

This manual was written in correspondence with the IABSE Task Group Aesthetics and Structural Engineering (Chairman, Prof. Dr. F. Leonhardt) by the Working Commission of Aesthetics in Bridge Engineering (Chairman, Dr. Y. Tahara) of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers.

In this manual we have tried not to write design methodology as in many photo albums of bridges or the text book style of explanation used in higher level thesis on aesthetics. Instead, we have followed the method of training and education applied in the traditional arts of Japan, for example, the tea ceremony and flower arrangement. First we focused our attention on factors such as shape, colour, and texture which make a bridge beautiful. Then we combined these factors to make an Original Form or an Archtype which we think is the first thing that a designer should learn. This is as important as a dessin is to a painter. Over 60 archtypes have been chosen and some show the factors for structural beauty in a whole bridge whereas some reveal the factors for parts. The factors which bring out the beauty in the harmony between the landscape and the bridge are also included. The archtypes are, at the same time, independent, interrelated, and concurrent, and show the factors which make the view of the bridge and its surrounding more attractive. After understanding the manual through many archtypes and illustrations as well as written explana-

tions, and by comparing favourable and unfavourable examples, the designer should be able to recognize for himself the factors which are necessary for the creation of something beautiful.

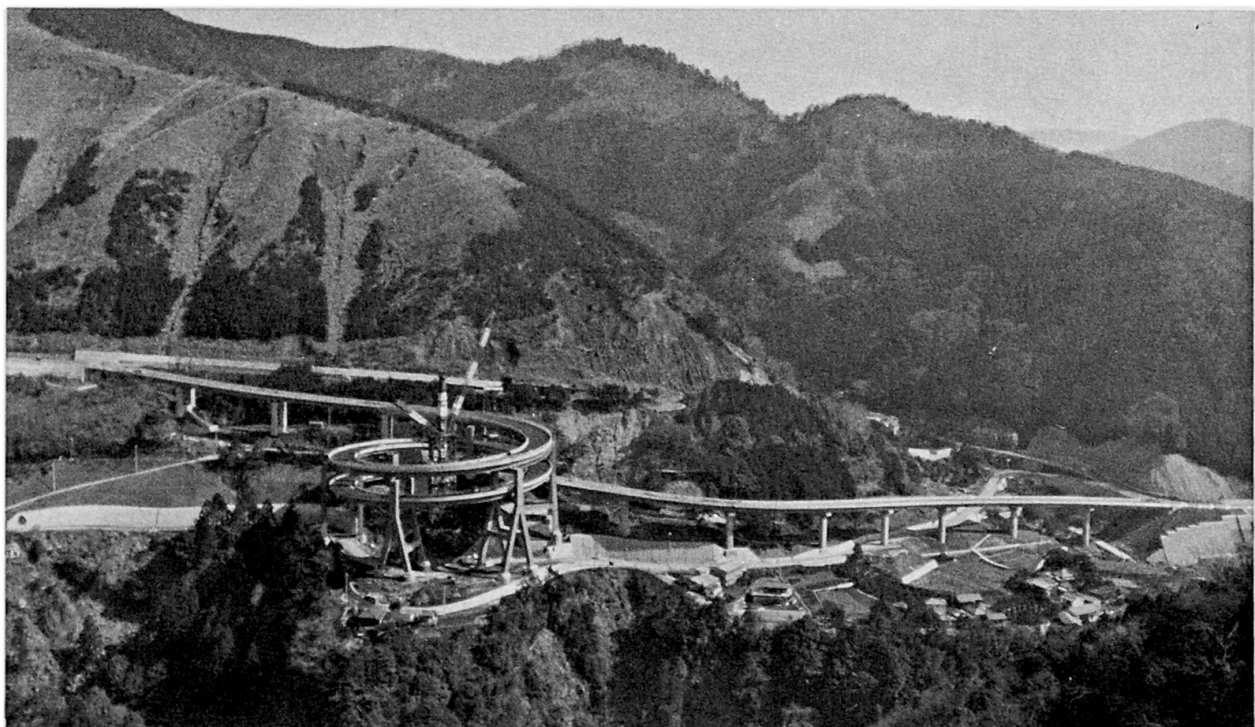
The actual designing of a bridge is an applied exercise in combining relevant favourable factors and his personal expressive ability — a sense of beauty — in order to create something beautiful. However, the result depends heavily upon the experience and talents of the designer.

The first chapter of the manual is general explanations, the second is concerned with the bridge within the scenery, the third chapter pertains to the shape of the bridge itself, the fourth deals with light, colour, and texture, the last chapter involves scenery, models and computer use.

(Y. Tahara)

The price of the manual — published in Japanese only — is US\$20 plus \$18 for the cost of air mail postage and handling:

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Nanadaru Bridge on the Odoriko Line, Japan (JSCE Award for design).